

## HONORING HENRY HUERTA

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 12, 2022*

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to honor the life of the late Henry Perez Huerta. Henry was one of the most important voices in the labor movement in California. He led an incredible life protecting the rights of working families in Southern and Northern California and inspired other leaders to follow in his footsteps.

Henry was a child of the farm worker movement. At 16, Henry watched his father organize a massive rally in Gonzales, California where Cesar Chavez spoke to farmworkers. From that moment, Henry was inspired to live a life where he fought for workers. Outraged by the disenfranchisement of farmworker families like his own, Henry became the youngest deputy registrar in the state of California. He registered countless farm workers to vote and make their voices heard.

After graduating from the University of Oregon, where Henry was one of the very few Mexican-Americans on campus, he worked for the State of California's Department of Industrial Relations for 31 years. His work was so impactful to so many—often acting as a one-person investigation team for the Labor Commission. Thinking of his own family's experience, Henry felt a deep sense of fulfillment helping farm workers receive wages they were unfairly denied.

While working in San Francisco, Henry quickly ascended to Senior Deputy Labor Commissioner, investigating the workplace conditions of sweat shops, agricultural companies, car washes and construction sites. Henry always understood the importance of empowering workers, which led him to lead the charge in unionizing carwash workers in LA.

Henry and his wife, Martha, eventually settled down in Whittier, California, but Henry's passion for political change and empowering working families never faded.

In his final months of life, Henry continued to register voters, and volunteer countless hours to get out the vote. As a result of his tireless activism, Henry was honored by the Los Angeles County Democratic Party as "Democrat of the Year."

Henry was such a great activist not just because of the time he spent on work, but also the time he invested in mentorship, friendship, and guidance to local leaders. I am proud to have called Henry a friend and a role model.

Henry Huerta left us too soon. His absence is greatly felt by my community, but his legacy as a voice for the disenfranchised will be remembered for generations. I join Henry's wife, Martha, his 2 children, Enrique Jr., and Zenaida, and all his family and friends in celebrating the difference he made in our community through a full and meaningful life.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT  
GENERAL STEVE GILLAND**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 12, 2022*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant General Steve Gilland

on having taken command as the 61st Superintendent in the history of the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Born in Rock Island and a graduate of Sherrard High School, LT GEN Gilland earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the U.S. Military Academy and later, a Master's degree in military operational art and science from the Air Force's Air Command and Staff College. He was commissioned from West Point in 1990, which marked the official start of his service in the U.S. Army. Since then, LT GEN Gilland has deployed numerous times and supported multiple operations across the Middle East and Northern Africa. Most recently, he was the Deputy Commander of III Corps at Fort Hood in Texas from July 2021, until June 2022. LT GEN Gilland has received many awards and decorations throughout his service including the Army Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with V Device, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Military Free Fall Jumpmaster Badge, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. He was confirmed for promotion to Lieutenant General in June 2022. On June 27, 2022, he assumed his duties as Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy. LT GEN Steve Gilland is a hero and will perform admirably in his new capacity.

It is because of honorable and dedicated leaders such as LT GEN Steve Gilland of the U.S. Military Academy that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to, again, formally congratulate him as the newest Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy.

## HONORING MR. EARL TILLMAN

**HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 12, 2022*

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend Mr. Earl Tillman, an accomplished business and community leader, civilian flight instructor, and long-time member of the Georgia Wing of the Civil Air Patrol.

Mr. Tillman has been an icon of the Rome and Floyd County community for decades. As an avid aviation enthusiast, he has operated the Tillman Aviation University at Richard B. Russell Regional Airport in Rome for over twenty-five years and has made countless contributions to the operations and advancement of the airport. As a long-time member of the Civil Air Patrol myself, as well as being a fellow aviator, I can personally attest to Mr. Tillman's unwavering dedication to the airport and the entire community.

Hailing from Pierce County, Georgia, Earl graduated from Mt. Berry School for the Boys in 1952. He later attended Jacksonville University and the University of Florida. After college, Earl proudly served our nation in the United States Army. Mr. Tillman then returned to the private sector where he took a position at State Mutual Insurance, until 1999, when he returned to his alma-mater, Mt. Berry School, to serve as Special Assistant to the President.

Outside of his professional careers, Mr. Tillman's passion has been to share his knowl-

edge of aviation, especially to the youth of the community. When my family served as volunteers in the Civil Air Patrol, Mr. Tillman gave my daughter her first official flight lesson. Throughout the years, Mr. Tillman has used his passion, knowledge, and experience in aviation to serve others. As an influential member of the Civil Air Patrol for more than fifty years, he conducted numerous aerial search-and-rescue missions, as well as teaching aviation and leadership skills to young cadets and adult volunteers. He also worked with local Boy Scout Troops to help young men earn their aviation merit badges and inspire them to serve their communities.

The impact Mr. Tillman has had on this community is immeasurable, from the number of people he helped to pursue careers in aviation, to his service as a Deacon at the First Baptist Church, he has touched, encouraged, and inspired so many.

His selfless dedication and commitment to Rome, Floyd County, and the state of Georgia, have made our community and state better and stronger. I am happy to call him a friend; and, on behalf of all Georgians, and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, I am honored to acknowledge and thank him for his lifetime of service.

## TRIBUTE TO WILLIE B. OWENS, SR.

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 12, 2022*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant, highly respected educator and a longtime personal friend. Recently retired Orangeburg County Councilman Willie B. Owens, Sr. transitioned from this life on August 5, 2022. He has left an indelible mark on his community and all of those who were fortunate to know him.

Willie B. Owens, Sr. was born on November 8, 1938, in Branchville, South Carolina to the late Bennie C. Owens and Lillie Ruth Warren Owens. Willie B., as he was always affectionately known, graduated from Wilkinson High School in 1956. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture in 1960 and a Master of Education Degree in 1966 from South Carolina State College. He went on to earn his E.D. from the Citadel and did further study at Clemson University and the University of South Carolina.

I knew Willie B. from our days together on the campus of South Carolina State where we both were active as students in campus activities and civil rights protests in Orangeburg County. He continued his activism throughout his life participating in voter registration drives and taking people to the polls to vote. He was also a Life Member of the NAACP, and always stood up against injustices.

Willie B. spent his professional career working in education. He began in the public schools serving as an agriculture teacher at Richard Carroll High School and Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School. He served as Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School's Director of Transportation and then Principal. He also had a stint as Director of the Future Farmers of America Camp in Orangeburg, and as Director of Vocational Programs for Bamberg School District One.

Willie B. went on to work in higher education. He held two different positions at Voorhees College, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and Executive Director of the South Carolina Regional Community Development Corporation on the Denmark campus. He also served as Assistant Vice President for Academic Administration and Director for Professional and Continuing Studies at Claflin University.

In 2007, Willie B. was elected to the Orangeburg County Council to represent the citizens of District 7, a position he held for 15 years. He stepped down in June 2022, due to health concerns. Willie B. was a leader on the Council and an outspoken advocate for the people. His outstanding accomplishments were numerous. He led the effort to create a Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. monument outside the Orangeburg County Courthouse. The monument serves to honor the great civil rights leader and County residents that have distinguished themselves in the areas of justice, community, government and first responders. The distinctive monument was unveiled in 2021 and was constructed using Capital Project Sales Tax funds. He also spearheaded the building of Whittaker Community Center, which was dedicated just 2-days before he retired from Council.

Willie B. was very active in the community. He was a member of the South Carolina Association for Community Developers, the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals, the South Carolina Task Force for the Study of School Incentive Programs, the South Carolina Department of Education Advanced Placement Advisory Committee, and served as an Orangeburg Calhoun Technical College Area Commissioner. Other leadership positions included President of South Carolina AA Athletic Association, Chairman of the Regional Medical Center Board of Trustees, and Chairman of Orangeburg County Peoples Assault on Drugs. He was also a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

His outstanding contributions were recognized by numerous awards including the Martin Luther King Jr. Distinguished Service Award, the Outstanding Achievement Award in Education, the Excellence in Education Award, the Outstanding Service Award from Bamberg Job Corps, the Omega Man of the Year, the South Carolina Future Farmers of America Honorary Degree, the Outstanding Young Educator Award, the South Carolina Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association Outstanding Presidential Award, and the Star Teacher of the Year Award.

Willie B. was a man of faith and became a member of McBranch Baptist Church in Branchville, South Carolina at an early age. He was married to Arminta Owens for 59 years. They have three sons, Willie B. Owens, Jr., Derrick Owens, and Greg Nell and two granddaughters.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating the life and legacy of Willie B. Owens, Sr. He spent his entire adult life serving Orangeburg County, South Carolina, and his contributions made a difference in countless lives. Many future generations will benefit from the leadership of Willie B., and that is a great testament to a life well lived.

## REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF MR. JAMES PAUL MASON

### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2022

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. James Paul Mason. Mr. Mason was a life-long resident of Neshoba County, Mississippi. His parents, Mrs. Mary Ethel Graham Mason, and Mr. James (Jim) Presley Mason, both advanced education in their home county; his mother as a teacher, and his father as a member of the school board.

James Paul was a star athlete at Neshoba Central High School and was recruited to play football at the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) by the legendary John Howard Vaught.

Upon graduating from Ole Miss, Mr. Mason returned to his high school alma mater as an assistant football coach for 5 years, then embarked upon a distinguished career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency.

Mr. Mason is recognized for his long service to his county, state, and Nation as executive director of the USDA's Farm Service Agency for Neshoba and Kemper counties until his retirement in December 2018. His service was exemplary.

Outside his role with the USDA, Mr. Mason was a dedicated husband to his wife of 49 years, Judy Clark Mason, and a loving father to his 2 daughters, Yancey and Corby.

James Paul was a proud member of the Ole Miss "M Club," a club for athletic letter winners at the University of Mississippi. He was a loyal supporter of the University, attending an untold number of sporting events as a season ticket holder for football, basketball, and baseball. There was not a bigger Rebel fan.

James Paul was generous to his friends. He also had a "Never-met-a-stranger" personality which endeared him to those who met him. He was loved and admired by a multitude of family, friends, and colleagues. Mr. James Paul Mason will always be remembered as a husband, father, and friend. There was none finer.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, we commend and thank Mr. James Paul Mason for his decades of service to his country.

## CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF REGIONS HOSPITAL

### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2022

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Regions Hospital in Saint Paul, Minnesota on the momentous occasion of its 150th anniversary of service to the East Metro area. The dedication of the entire staff—nurses, doctors, technicians, support staff, administration and more—has made Regions a pillar of quality and innovative care in Minnesota.

Established as "City and County Hospital" in 1872 by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners, the hospital's history began in a stone mansion with only two doctors in Saint Paul's West Seventh neighborhood. In 1965, it

moved to its current location in downtown Saint Paul, and twenty years later it was re-named Regions Hospital.

Throughout its 150 years, Regions has come to play a unique and life-saving role in our community as the East Metro safety net hospital and the only Level 1 Trauma Center. There are more than 26,000 hospital admissions per year, and more than 13,000 cases at the Surgery Center. Regions focuses on leading-edge treatments and ongoing research to continue to provide the best innovative care for their patients. The hospital is nationally recognized for many programs including the Approved Emergency Residency Program that is educating the next generation of emergency medicine physicians, the Cancer Research Center, which leads the way in equitable clinical trials and seeks to reduce barriers to clinical research opportunities to better serve the diverse Twin Cities community, and the Bum Center where patients receive the highest level of specialized care and the physical and emotional support needed to heal. And in 2020, the Regions Hospital Family Birth Center opened as a 160,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility for labor and delivery.

Regions is a hospital that consistently shows up for communities in need. One example of this is the Lee and Penny Anderson HeroCare Program which honors military families by providing medical services for veterans, members of the military and their families, connecting them to mental health services and medical resources specific to their needs. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Regions answered the call to serve by researching possible treatment options to offer hope and improve patient care.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the incredible health care professionals and support staff of Regions Hospital as they celebrate 150 years of quality care, and as they continue to work to fulfill their mission of improving health and well-being in partnership with their patients and the community.

## HONORING THOMAS SMITH OF BUFFALO, NY

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2022

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Thomas "Tom" Smith, a committed public servant, devoted husband and father, and a trusted friend and advisor to so many in government and politics in his hometown of Buffalo, NY, who passed away last week.

A key advisor in the administration of Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, Tom was known widely for his keen insight, his commitment to public service, his loyalty, and his kindness and decency. Through his long and distinguished career, Tom developed a deep and impressive understanding of all facets of municipal administration which he employed to benefit of all of the residents of the city of Buffalo. He will be dearly missed.

Tom Smith is survived by his beloved wife of 12 years, Jessica Maglietto Smith, his sons Jack and Drew, his parents Dennis and Shirley Smith; and his brothers Dennis and Doug.